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STATISTICS OF DIVORCE IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE.

The Hon. Carroll D. Wright, Commissioner of Labor, transmitted to Congress, February 20th, a report "On the Statistics of and Laws relating to Marriage and Divorce in the United States," for the twenty years 1867-1886 inclusive. The report will be published during the coming summer in a volume of nearly one thousand pages. An appendix is added, covering the same ground, for Europe and Canada, though in less detail and completeness. It was found, as it was expected, that many of the deeper yet more important sociological facts lay beyond the reach of the investigation. Some of them are probably unattainable by any statistical inquiry. But others may be brought within the scope of subsequent investigation should public interest justify making the necessary outlay. The points taken up were selected only after the most careful scrutiny and study of the possibilities of the subject. The ground covered is stated in the advance sheets which Mr. Wright has given to the press. The report begins in two chapters, giving a complete and accurate analysis of the laws of marriage and divorce, including, of course, the changes made in them, and their effect as seen in the statistical tables.

The third chapter contains the fundamental table showing the movement of marriage and divorce from 1867 to 1886, by states or territories and by counties. The divorces are reported for 96 per cent of all the 2700 counties in the country, including 98 per cent of the entire population. The records of marriage are so badly kept that statistics can be given for only 66 per cent of the counties. The loss of records by fire makes returns from some counties incomplete. The Appendix, relating to Canada and Europe, is necessarily

less full than the body of the work on our own country. But it includes, on the chief points, much more than can be found in all the European official and other publications, a great deal of the material having been gathered for the first time, for this report, from the original sources by the agent of the Department.

Chapter IV deals with the causes of divorce with numbers under each cause, as they appear in the records of the courts. Chapter V treats of the duration of marriage before divorce takes place. Chapter VI compares, so far as the facts could be had, the place of residence at time of marriage, with the place where the divorce was granted. This shows the number of divorces in a given state from the marriages that took place within the state and from those that took place in the other states and counties. The reverse facts are also as given, by which it can be seen where those who were married in any given state have obtained their divorces. The bearing of this upon that part of the problem of uniform laws which spring from migration from state to state, for the purpose of divorce under easier conditions, is apparent. Another chapter will give the number of children of the divorced parties, and also the proportion of cases, in a few representative counties, in which alimony was granted. Chapter VIII is made up largely of general tables, bringing these results into more compact form.

Some of the leading statistical results are here given from the advance sheets. These figures may be changed under the final revision, but the Commissioner expects only slight variation from them. The following table gives the whole number of divorces in the entire United States for each of the twenty years : —

DIVORCES IN THE UNITED STATES BY YEARS.

Year.	Divorces.	Year.	Divorces.	Year.	Divorces.	Year.	Divorces.
1867	9,937	1872	12,390	1877	15,687	1882	22,112
1868	10,150	1873	13,156	1878	16,089	1883	23,198
1869	10,939	1874	13,989	1879	17,083	1884	22,994
1870	10,962	1875	14,212	1880	19,663	1885	23,472
1871	11,586	1876	14,800	1881	20,762	1886	25,535
Totals....	53,574	68,547	89,284	117,311

There were 328,716 in the twenty years, and 156.9 per cent more divorces in 1886 than in 1867. The population of the country, in this time, increased about 60 per cent.

Taking the divorces by quinquennial periods, they were as follows:—

Period.	Divorces.	Increase per cent.
1867-1871	53,574	
1872-1876	68,547	27.9
1877-1881	89,284	30.2
1882-1886	117,311	31.3

The fourth quinquennial period had 118.9 per cent more divorces than the first. The increase is seen to be twice as great, or more than twice as great as the population.

The only states or territories where this increase, as determined by quinquennial periods, has not taken place, are Maine, Vermont, and Connecticut, in the East, under the restrictive legislation brought about by the National Divorce Reform League and its friends; South Carolina, which never granted divorce except for a short time during the period of reconstruction after the war; and Nevada and Utah in the West. The decline of population accounts for the apparent decrease in Nevada. Utah shared in the general movement until 1876 and 1877, when divorces suddenly reached the enormous number of 709 and 914 respectively. The next year they fell to 298, and were only 119 in 1886. The excessively high numbers were due to the use made by Eastern parties of a loose statute, which was repealed after a

year or two. In Michigan, it may be added, there has probably been a decrease of divorces since 1887, due to the restrictive legislation of that year.

On dividing the country into three great sections, significant results appear. These sections are, first, the fourteen northern states east of the Mississippi River, which contained, in 1880, about 51 per cent of the population of the entire United States; secondly, the ten old slave states, including the District of Columbia; and, thirdly, the remaining and mostly new states and territories west of the Mississippi. Adopting this division, we have the following results by quinquennial periods: —

Section.	1867-1871.	1872-1876.	1877-1881.	1882-1886.	Totals.
Northern.....	36,809	42,144	50,125	60,478	189,556
Southern... ..	10,042	15,087	22,881	32,952	80,962
Western.....	6,723	11,316	16,278	23,881	58,198
Totals.....	53,574	68,547	89,284	117,311	328,716

The fourteen northern states, with 51 per cent of the population of the country in 1880, granted 36,809, or 68.7 per cent of all the divorces in the first five years, and 51.6 per cent of the divorces in the last five years. Between 1870 and 1880 the population of this section increased about 20 per cent while the divorces of the last five years were 64 per cent more than those of the first five. But in the ten old slave states the divorces were 228 per cent more in the last five years than in the first five, while the population of 1880 was 33 per cent more than that of 1870. In the rest of the country beyond the Mississippi the increase of divorces in the fourth over the first quinquennial period was 255 per cent. But the population increased 84 per cent in the census decade, and probably much more accordingly in the twenty years. This study shows that, while at present the largest number of divorces, and the highest divorce rates, are found in the North and West, the most rapid increase in proportion to

the population is now going on in the South. Delaware is an exception to the marked increase. But other states are remarkable. Taking a few by the five-year periods, this is very striking. Alabama granted 479 in the first five years, and 2471 in the last five. Arkansas goes from 562 to 2686; Florida from 198 to 965; Georgia from 587 to 1454; Kentucky begins with the large number of 1726, and reaches, in the last five years, 3435; Louisiana increases from 173 to 759, and Mississippi from 373 to 2303. Missouri goes from 2281 to 5704; North Carolina from 130 to 578. Tennessee, like Kentucky, begins with a large number, 1415, and doubles it, granting 3418 the last five years. Texas, with a rapid growth in population, increases divorces from 699 to 5888. The Virginias move almost exactly together. Old Virginia goes from 382 to 1050, and West Virginia, though having less than half the population, from 376 to 1015.

Among the older states of the North and West the same steady increase goes on, while the volume is as yet larger than in the South. We still take quinquennial periods. Illinois increases from 5803 to 12,051; Indiana from 5741 to 7840; Michigan from 2635 to 6523; New Hampshire from 781 to 1633; New Jersey from 390 to 1072; Ohio from 4729 to 8934. New York does not increase much beyond her population. In the first five years she granted 3755, and in the last, 4759. Pennsylvania rises from 3158 to 5420.

One of the advance sheets shows the estimated number of existing married couples in the several states and territories to each divorce, for the years 1870 and 1880, when the census furnishes a close comparison with population. The estimated married couples increased from 7,281,031, in 1870, to 9,428,885, in 1880, or 29.5 per cent. The divorces in 1870 were 10,962, and in 1880 they were 19,663, or an increase of 79.4 per cent. The following table shows the order in which the states and territories stood on this basis in 1880, beginning with the worst. It should be remembered that Maine, in 1883, was taken out of the place here given to it, and

probably slight changes would be made in the order if the year 1886 could be taken for the comparison.

States and Territories.	Married Couples to one Divorce.	States and Territories.	Married Couples to one Divorce.	States and Territories.	Married Couples to one Divorce.
Colorado.....	136	Arizona.....	307	Massachusetts.....	566
Nevada.....	170	Arkansas.....	326	Minnesota.....	647
Wyoming.....	173	Dakota.....	328	Alabama.....	795
Oregon.....	175	Connecticut.....	340	Pennsylvania.....	851
Montana.....	180	Florida.....	341	West Virginia.....	974
New Hampshire.....	186	Texas.....	382	New York.....	1,151
Rhode Island.....	190	Ohio.....	389	Georgia.....	1,152
Washington.....	202	Tennessee.....	425	Maryland.....	1,380
Maine.....	204	Kansas.....	428	New Jersey.....	1,583
Utah.....	219	Nebraska.....	431	Louisiana.....	1,629
California.....	239	Missouri.....	440	Virginia.....	1,743
Idaho.....	248	Vermont.....	455	New Mexico.....	2,615
Indiana.....	262	Wisconsin.....	464	North Carolina.....	3,149
Michigan.....	269	Mississippi.....	498	Delaware.....	5,541
Illinois.....	271	District of Columbia.....	508	South Carolina.....	—
Iowa.....	306	Kentucky.....	549		

For purpose of comparison of city and country, 29 counties containing important cities were selected. Probably some other cities have higher rates than some of these. But the following table gives the figures for these 27 cities in the order of the magnitude of their ratios:—

County containing the City of	Married Couples to One Divorce in the County.	Married Couples to One Divorce in the rest of the State.	County containing the City of	Married Couples to One Divorce in the County.	Married Couples to One Divorce in the rest of the State.
Indianapolis.....	128	278	Dist. of Columbia..	508	508
Providence.....	180	220	Savannah.....	531	1193
San Francisco.....	182	270	Baltimore.....	640	3796
Chicago.....	183	308	Atlanta.....	663	1180
Portland, Me.....	185	207	Omaha.....	711	416
Nashville.....	216	452	Pittsburg and Alleghany City.....	764	860
Cleveland.....	221	409	Philadelphia.....	825	857
Memphis.....	243	446	Richmond.....	868	1850
Milwaukee.....	251	516	Newark, N. J.....	997	1796
St. Louis.....	274	498	New York.....	1004	1207
New Haven.....	292	359	Brooklyn.....	1020	1172
Detroit.....	296	286	New Orleans.....	1074	1926
Louisville.....	313	580	Jersey City.....	1145	1714
Boston.....	469	600			

In the above table only two cities, Detroit and Omaha, have a lower divorce rate than the rest of the state to which they belong. But several others closely approach the general average of their states, and in many of the states from one to a dozen rural counties can be found having generally higher divorce rates than those containing the large cities.

The tables showing the numbers of those divorced who were married in the state and out of it are not yet accessible to the student. I have seen those for some of the states, and these show that from 60 to 90 per cent of all the divorces granted were to parties whose marriage had taken place in the very state where the divorce occurred. And this is true, notwithstanding the shifting movements of population. California approximates the lower figure and Alabama reaches or passes the higher. A prediction as to the exact percentage of the total would be at present unsafe. But anyone who will study the advance sheets and see how widely and comparatively uniformly the movement is distributed will come to the conclusion that the migration from state to state for divorce under easier conditions, while it may be very considerable in the aggregate number of instances, must really constitute a small percentage of the great total. Of course, the data for a statistical opinion on this point are imperfect, as some elements of the problem were lacking. But the facts in those states where the place of marriage could be pretty largely ascertained are positive as far as they go.

As the other material of the report is still beyond reach, we take up the tables for Europe. As much less was made of this, and the Department did its work under the difficulties peculiar to the conditions of this part of the task, the returns are necessarily less complete than those of the United States. Still, most of the existing European material on this subject has been brought within the reach of students, and much added that has not yet appeared in any European publication. The briefest summary is given below. It was first printed,

as were some of the preceding tables, in the annual report of the National Divorce Reform League. The rate of the movement in Europe closely parallels that in the United States. But the volume of it in proportion to population is vastly greater here than in Europe, though Switzerland, Denmark, and some parts of Germany, have rates about as high as the average of American States.

The eleven European countries, and Canada, which gave statistics for both years, had 3541 divorces in 1867, and 9200 in 1886. Between 1876 and 1886, the thirteen countries reporting then, increased their divorces from 6540 to 10,909, or 67 per cent. In the same period the increase in the United States was 72.5 per cent. In all the European countries reporting in 1885 there were 23,735 divorces. Probably those granted in all Europe in 1886 would exceed but little those of the United States for the same year. The exceptions to the general rate of increase in Europe are, as in the United States, very few. Some of the statistics between 1867 and 1886 are as follows: Canada granted no divorces in 1867, but had 4 in 1868, and 12 in 1885; England granted 130 in 1867 and 372 in 1886; Scotland increased in the twenty years from 32 to 96; Baden from 19 to 143; Bavaria declined from 270 to 238; Hesse increased from 28 to 53; Saxony from 396 to 917; Wurtemberg from 94 to 161; the Netherlands from 133 to 418; Sweden from 128 to 226; and Norway from 33 in 1870 to 54 in 1884; other countries for other years are Alsace-Lorraine from 56 in 1874 to 117 in 1886; the city of Hamburg from 145 in 1880 to 287 in 1886; Prussia from 2329 in 1881 to 3808 in 1886; Roumania from 276 in 1881 to 432 in 1880; the German Empire entire from 5263 in 1882 to 6078 in 1886; Denmark from 479 in 1871 to 577 in 1881; and Russia from 892 in 1867 to 1196 in 1885; Austria and Hungary increased their divorces very little for the five and ten years reported. Italy decreased from 723 in 1869 to 556 in 1885. But France, under the old law, granted 2181 separations in 1867, and

3010 in 1883. Since the law of July, 1884, which re-established divorce in France, the figures are as follows: In 1884 there were 4478 divorces; in 1885 there were 6161, and in the next year, 6078. Other tables for France, Belgium, and Sweden run back from 50 to 75 years, and show a pretty steady increase during the period previous to 1867, where this report takes up the subject.

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LOSSES IN THE CIVIL WAR.

Regimental Losses in the American Civil War, 1861-65. By Wm. F. Fox, Lt.-Col. U. S. V., Prest. of the Society of the Twelfth Army Corps. Albany Publishing Company.

In this large quarto volume of 595 pages Col. Fox has made one of the most important contributions to military statistics embraced in the literature of war. The present publication deals chiefly with the losses among the national forces in the great struggle of 1861-65.

Merely to have compiled from the official records of the United States War Department the numerous and extensive tables which are comprised in the volume before us would have been a work of vast magnitude, deserving the fullest recognition from the statistician and the military historian; but Col. Fox has done far more than this. He has, with almost incredible labor, supplemented the records of the War Department by material drawn from the records of the several States, with the result of presenting, for the first time, the full story of the terrible losses sustained by the Union armies in a contest lasting through four years, yet carried on with a vehemence and ferocity scarcely known to the history of war.

The reader will better understand why it is that the records of the War Department require to be thus supplemented if we quote the following explanation in Col. Fox's words:—